

REMARKS

The office action of November 19, 2003, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

The disclosure is objected to for containing various informalities.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs.

Finally, it is noted that claims 1-18 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs.

In connection with the objection to the drawings applicant has enclosed herewith replacement sheets for Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 7. It is submitted that no new matter is added by these figures. Fig.

1 has been amended to schematically illustrate the door, the lock and the electronic control as boxes. The actual construction of these elements is known to those skilled in the art. Figs. 4 and 7 have been changed to provide correct cross-hatching. The first and second states of the lock do not need to be illustrated in detail for a thorough understanding of the invention by those skilled in the art. The schematic representation of the lock is, in applicant's opinion, sufficient for a complete understanding of the invention. Those skilled in the art clearly know that a lock has two different states. The specific construction of the lock itself and how it would appear in the alternate positions is not of importance to the present invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the drawings are overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claim 8 and amended claims 1, 10, 13 and 17.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended

the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness cited by the Examiner. BM-85

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Relative to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter contained in the claims is described in the specification to an extent sufficient to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that at the time the application was filed the inventors had possession of the claimed invention. The lock allows the door to open and close in a conventional manner, i.e. it either holds the door closed or allows it to be opened. Those skilled in the art would know and understand how the lock works in the two states. The physical manner in which the lock works does not form part of the present invention. All the present invention requires is that the lock can be switched between an open state and a closed state. Those skilled in the art know how a lock switches between these states. The construction of the electronic control is also not of significance to the present invention. All that is necessary is that the control moves the lock between the two states. Those

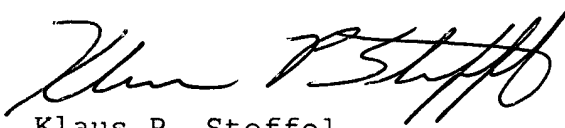
skilled in the art also know how this is accomplished. The switching element and its arrangement in the container and the handle are what is inventive and new in the present application. Those skilled in the art will readily know how the door, the electronic control and the lock are interconnected so as to be functional.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 19, 2004.

By:   
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: February 19, 2004